

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 11, 13, 15-17 and 19.

Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8-10, 18 and 20 as follows.

1. (Currently amended) A marine dock hitch for coupling a boat to a dock, comprising:

a generally elongated hitch bar;

a first hitch coupling having a first housing provided on a first end of said hitch bar for removably engaging the dock; and

a second hitch coupling having a second housing provided on a second end of said hitch bar for removably engaging the boat, said first housing and said second housing each having a bottom edge and a plurality of generally curved notches provided in said bottom edge.

2. (Currently amended) The marine dock hitch of claim 1 further comprising a first hitch catch for attachment to the dock and a second hitch catch for attachment to the boat, and wherein said first ~~hitch coupling~~ housing is adapted for removably engaging said first hitch catch and said second ~~hitch coupling~~ housing is adapted for removably engaging said second hitch catch.

3. (Original) The marine dock hitch of claim 1 further comprising a locking mechanism carried by each of said first hitch coupling and said second hitch coupling for removably locking said first hitch coupling to the dock and said second hitch coupling to the boat, respectively.

4. (Currently amended) The marine dock hitch of claim 3 further comprising a first hitch catch for attachment to the dock and a second hitch catch for attachment to the boat, and wherein said first ~~hitch-coupling~~ housing is adapted for removably engaging said first hitch catch and said second ~~hitch-coupling~~ housing is adapted for removably engaging said second hitch catch.

5. (Currently amended) The marine dock hitch of claim 2 wherein said first ~~hitch-coupling~~ housing and said second ~~hitch-coupling~~ housing each comprises a ~~housing~~ having a catch receptacle for receiving said first hitch catch and said second hitch catch, respectively.

6. (Original) The marine dock hitch of claim 5 further comprising a locking mechanism carried by each of said first

hitch coupling and said second hitch coupling for removably locking said first hitch coupling to said first hitch catch and said second hitch coupling to said second hitch catch.

7. (Original) The marine dock hitch of claim 3 wherein said locking mechanism comprises a lock handle pivotally carried by said first hitch coupling and said second hitch coupling, respectively, for removably engaging the dock and the boat, respectively.

8. (Currently amended) The marine dock hitch of claim 7 further comprising a first hitch catch for attachment to the dock and a second hitch catch for attachment to the boat, and wherein said first ~~hitch-coupling~~ housing is adapted for removably engaging said first hitch catch and said second ~~hitch-coupling~~ housing is adapted for removably engaging said second hitch catch.

9. (Currently amended) The marine dock hitch of claim 8 wherein said first ~~hitch-coupling~~ housing and said second ~~hitch-coupling~~ housing each comprises a ~~housing~~ having a catch receptacle for receiving said first hitch catch and said second hitch catch, respectively.

10. (Currently amended) A marine dock hitch for coupling a boat to a dock, comprising:

a first hitch catch mount having a first hitch catch for attachment to the dock;

a second hitch catch mount having a second hitch catch for attachment to the boat;

a generally elongated hitch bar;

a first hitch coupling provided on a first end of said hitch bar for removably engaging said first hitch catch; ~~and~~

a second hitch coupling provided on a second end of said hitch bar for removably engaging said second hitch catch, said first hitch coupling and said second hitch coupling each comprising a housing having a bottom edge and a catch receptacle for receiving said first hitch catch and said second hitch catch, respectively; and

a generally curved front housing notch and a pair of generally curved side housing notches provided in said bottom edge of said housing.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) The marine dock hitch of claim 10 further

comprising a locking mechanism carried by each of said first hitch coupling and said second hitch coupling for removably locking said first hitch coupling to said first hitch catch and said second hitch coupling to said second hitch catch, respectively.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The marine dock hitch of claim 12 wherein said locking mechanism comprises a lock handle pivotally carried by said first hitch coupling and said second hitch coupling, respectively, for removably engaging said first hitch catch and said second hitch catch, respectively.

15-17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) A marine dock hitch for coupling a boat to a dock, comprising:

a first hitch catch mount having a first hitch catch for attachment to the dock;

a second hitch catch mount having a second hitch catch for attachment to the boat;

a rope groove provided in each of said first hitch

catch mount and said second hitch catch mount;

a generally elongated hitch bar;

a first hitch coupling having a first housing provided on a first end of said hitch bar for removably receiving said first hitch catch; ~~and~~

a second hitch coupling having a second housing provided on a second end of said hitch bar for removably receiving said second hitch catch; and

a lock handle pivotally carried by said first hitch coupling and said second hitch coupling, respectively, for removably engaging said first hitch catch and said second hitch catch, respectively.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently amended) The marine dock hitch of claim 18 wherein said first housing and said second housing each comprises a bottom edge and further comprising a generally curved front housing notch and a pair of generally curved side housing notches provided in said bottom edge.